



Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-2993
Ph. (717) 237-2100 Fax: (717) 237-2238

July 26, 2007

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA180-7-5

SUBJECT: CPA – Food Security Act (FSA) Erosion Control Level Requirements

PURPOSE: Inform field offices of State Policy Change

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2007

Background: When RUSLE2 was adopted, it was no longer practical to use existing USLE/RUSLE-based C*P factors to develop Conservation Systems for Food Security Act compliance. NRCS in Pennsylvania established policy to adopt a level of control of the soil loss tolerance (“T”) plus two additional tons per acre (T+2), not to exceed two times the tolerance level (2T), which was the national maximum rate allowed.

With several years experience in using RUSLE2, and in considering the actual impact of the T+2 criteria in Pennsylvania compared to the national 2T criteria, NRCS in Pennsylvania has decided to adopt the national 2T level as the maximum allowable erosion level for Food Security Act HEL compliance for non-sodbusting situations.

The mandate in the Food Security Act is to obtain a substantial reduction in erosion which is defined as follows:

- If the field was used to produce crops prior to December 23, 1985 and the conservation system or plan was approved, applied and maintained **prior** to July 3, 1996, substantial reduction has been achieved.
- For land that was used to produce crops prior to December 23, 1985, and has a conservation system or plan that was approved **after** July 3, 1996, the requirement is 75% reduction of the potential erodibility, not to exceed two times the soil loss tolerance level (2T) for the predominant highly erodible soil map unit in the highly erodible field.

For land with no history of crop production prior to July 3, 1996 or that was converted from native vegetation (forestland), the treatment level will not allow the soil erosion to exceed the soil loss tolerance (T) for the predominant highly erodible soil map unit in the highly erodible field.

Action: When calculating soil erosion for new FSA compliance plans, use the 75% not to exceed 2T or the not to exceed T rule according to the case. For plans prior to July 3, 1996 use the erosion control level approved at the time even if it is more than 2T.

Contact: If you have any questions please contact Noel Soto (717-237-2173).

/s/ CRAIG R. DERICKSON
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

